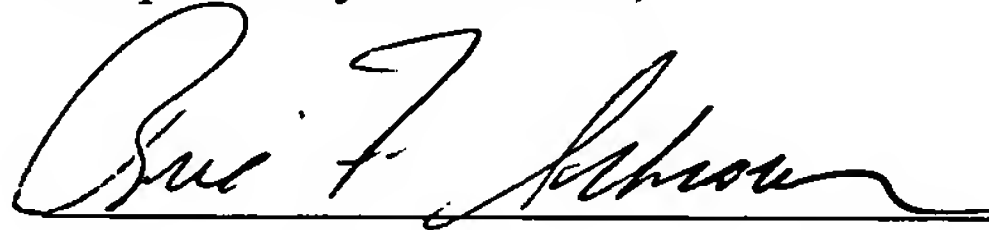


REMARKS

The foregoing amendments have been made upon consideration of the international search report and in order to better facilitate examination by the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

It is believed that each of the claims in the instant application are patentably distinct over the cited prior art in the international search report, taken alone or in combination. Therefore, early consideration and allowance of the instant application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian F. Schroeder", written over a horizontal line.

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BFS/wls
Enclosure